

Kurdish rebels free Turkish soldiers

ANKARA (R) — Eight Turkish soldiers held captive by separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in northern Iraq were repatriated Saturday, local officials said. Seven of the soldiers had been abducted last Aug. 4 by the rebels, who raided an army post on the Turkish-Iraq border and killed 10 other soldiers. It was not clear when the eighth soldier was captured. The raid prompted a week-long Turkish military operation against PKK bases across the border. Officials said the freed soldiers were handed over at the Habur border point to a representative of Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Siyamet Basan, an envoy for the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Iraq. The Iraqi Kurds are in contact with Turkish Kurdish guerrillas, although they are not allied. The PKK said it would release the hostages earlier this month, but changed its mind after Ankara refused to agree to a formal ceremony with U.N. observers. Turkish officials have repeatedly refused to negotiate with the PKK, which has been fighting a guerrilla war since 1984 in southeastern Turkey where half of the country's 12 million Kurds are concentrated. Over 3,000 soldiers, civilians and rebels have died in the fighting so far. Another PKK raid earlier in October killed 11 other soldiers, prompting new strikes by Turkish jets in northern Iraq last week.

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Israelis round up Muslim fundamentalists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel rounded up dozens of activists of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, including its deputy leader, Arab reporters said Saturday. The move apparently was aimed at preventing guerrilla attacks that could threaten Middle East peace talks. Hamas staunchly opposes the talks as a sellout. The sweep began late Friday in the occupied Gaza Strip, and troops detained several dozen Hamas activists. Arab reporters said among those arrested was Ibrahim Yezouri, 55, the deputy leader of Hamas in Gaza, the reports said. The sweep started hours after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin announced that the peace conference would begin Oct. 30 in Madrid. Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, a Gaza physician and Hamas leader, said Saturday that the arrests were linked to the proposed peace talks. "This is a political campaign. It is an attempt to silence the voice of the opposition," he told the Associated Press. Arab reporters said 17 Hamas activists were detained in the Shati refugee camp, 10 in Gaza City, and many more in the Nuseirat refugee camp. The exact figure was not known. Mr. Yezouri is a Gaza City pharmacist and heads a key Hamas institution, the Islamic Charitable Organization.



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Iran 'ready to send' troops to fight Israel'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday condemned the planned Middle East peace conference and said Tehran was ready to send troops to Israel to fight alongside Palestinians. "We are ready to contribute to the needs of the Palestinians," the Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying. Opening a four-day international conference in Tehran in support of the Palestinian people, he said "Iran is even ready to dispatch troops to fight Israel along with the Palestinians." The agency quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying the U.S.-sponsored peace conference, expected to convene in Madrid, Spain on Oct. 30, was a "strategic blunder." Calling it an "imposed conference," he said the talks were aimed at sowing discord among Muslims. Predicting the outcome of the talks, Mr. Rafsanjani said, "in my opinion this conference will have a very weak achievement, if any."

China denies helping Iran nuclear project

BEIJING (AP) — China Saturday again denied involvement in developing Iran's nuclear weapons programme. The denial was made by the Foreign Ministry in response to a Washington Times report Wednesday that quoted U.S. officials as saying China was helping Iran build a nuclear reactor that was part of a secret weapons programme. The report also said Tehran was seeking to buy M-11 guided missiles from China. A Foreign Ministry spokesman called the report "groundless." China issued similar denials this summer when U.S. officials and an Iranian opposition leader named China as one of several countries helping Iran develop a nuclear bomb. China said in August that it would sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but has not yet done so.

Saud in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in Tunis Saturday with a message from King Fahd to Tunisian President Zine Al Abdine Ben Ali.

U.N.: 60,000 Iraqi refugees in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — There are about 60,000 Iraqi refugees in 30 camps in western and southern Iran, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Saturday in a report carried by the national news agency IRNA that the Iraqis were in the border provinces of West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Bakhtaran, Khuzestan and Lorestan.

Major dealt blow by latest poll

LONDON (R) — An opinion poll showing a seven-point lead for the opposition Labour Party dealt a blow on Saturday to the British Conservative government's hopes of winning next year's general election. Prime Minister John Major must call an election in the next nine months. Other recent polls had put the two main parties about neck-and-neck. But the Harris Poll for Sunday's Observer newspaper showed that 46 per cent would vote Labour, up from 41 per cent last month. The Conservatives got 39 per cent, down from 40 last month, and the minority Liberal Democrats 12 per cent, down from 13. The Observer survey found growing pessimism about the economy, mired in recession with unemployment rising sharply. Those believing they would be better off in six months' time fell from 19 per cent to 15 per cent. The number expecting to be worse off rose from 24 per cent to 29 per cent. The one bright spot for the Conservatives was that Mr. Major remained well ahead of Labour leader Neil Kinnock in personal popularity. Some 72 per cent thought Mr. Major was either doing a very good or fairly good job.

Jordan accepts invitation to peace conference, reaffirms its principles

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Saturday became the first country to formally announce its acceptance of the American-Soviet invitation to attend the Middle East peace conference to be convened in Madrid, Spain on Oct. 30.

The decision to accept the invitation, which was delivered to Foreign Minister Taha Jaber earlier in the day, was taken at a regular cabinet session chaired by Prime Minister Taher Masri.

A cabinet statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the decision "in principle" to accept the invitation was based on "the principles of the Jordanian policy since 1967" — which are commitment to international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for exchange of land for peace and rule out the acquisition of territory by force and call for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and for ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people in order to achieve a just, durable and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians submit list of 14 peace delegates to U.S.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — After two days of intensive negotiations, Palestinians from the occupied territories on Saturday named 14 delegates to Middle East peace talks, a Palestinian leader said.

The designation of Palestinian negotiators is one of the key issues that needs to be resolved before the conference can be convened in Madrid on Oct. 30.

Israel has said it would only negotiate with Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who are not openly affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Palestinians insist they have the right to name their own negotiators, but apparently have agreed under U.S. pressure to send only delegates that will meet Israeli demands.

Palestinian leader Faisal Hassini said he handed the list of names to U.S. Consul Molly Williamson at his home in Jerusalem on Saturday after-

noon.

Mr. Hassini refused to give the names, saying the Palestinians would only make them public after other conference participants have announced whom they will send to the talks.

But a Palestinian source said the delegation would apparently be headed by Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, 71, a physician from the occupied Gaza Strip.

Dr. Abdul Shafi was a member of the PLO's first Executive Committee in 1964. In 1967, he was expelled by Israel to the Sinai, then Israel-occupied, but was later allowed to return to Gaza.

The Palestinian source said that at the request of the Americans, the names of the other delegates would not immediately be released.

Palestinian leaders had met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem Friday to discuss the composition of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks.

Israeli hardliners set to battle over conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's right-wing government could split over the summons to a Middle East peace conference but Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that was promised support from the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction headed by Chairman Yasser Arafat.

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Egypt will be observer in Madrid

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday the Egyptian delegation to this month's Middle East peace conference in Madrid will be no more than an observer.

The comment contradicts the previous Egyptian position that it will attend the conference as a participant. Egypt is the only Arab state tied by peace treaty to Israel and had been expected to act as a go-between for the Arabs and the Jewish state.

Mr. Mubarak, speaking to reporters, would not say whether Egyptian delegates would interest in or mediate bilateral Arab-Israeli talks expected after the conference.

From Israel's standpoint, the primary pre-conference issue yet to be resolved is the list of Palestinian delegates.

Israel has demanded that no members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) be included on the list, and that the Palestinians be residents of the occupied territories excluding East Jerusalem.

Wesley Egan, the U.S. chargé d'affaires in Cairo, and Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov jointly met with Foreign Minister Ami Mena Saturday and told reporters afterward that they had delivered to him the conference invitation.

Saeed Kamal, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Cairo representative, told reporters Friday,

"There will be no forgiveness for those who may cause this historic journey to fail," said a joint statement of three left-wing



EXHIBITION: Prime Minister Taher Masri items made by handicapped children. Mr. Masri opened the exhibition earlier (see page 3).

Assad, Arafat meet

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, after prodding Palestinians to the Middle East conference table, met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Saturday to bury years of animosity before historic peace talks with Israel.

Reconciliation is expected to pave the way for a pre-peace conference summit of Mr. Arafat and the four Arab leaders whose countries border Israel.

Syria, Israel's most unfriendly Arab foe, said after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Wednesday it would attend the conference, which is co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow. It opens in Madrid on Oct. 30.

The PLO, barred from attending by Israel's refusal to speak to it, Friday sanctioned the idea of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

Israel, which considers its final response at its regular Sunday cabinet meeting, has expressed concern about the behind-the-scenes role of the PLO.

But Mr. Baker has said the names of the Palestinian delegates seem acceptable and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says he will recommend Israeli attendance.

Mr. Arafat began talks with Vice-President Abdu Halim Khaddam immediately after arriving in the Syrian capital Saturday, his first visit for the year.

President spokesman Joubra Kourich said Mr. Arafat and his delegation met Mr. Assad and Mr. Khaddam at a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Observers will include Egypt, the Gulf Arab states, the Maghreb countries, the United Nations and the European Community.

Mr. Baker flew to Madrid from Israel for a courtesy call on Mr. Gonzalez after announcing his surprise choice of the Spanish capital as site of the conference.

No responses have yet been received to the joint U.S.-Soviet invitation to the talks, called after months of diplomacy.

"We have been working diligently for the past seven months on where such talks

would be held.

Asked why Madrid had been chosen for the conference, Mr. Baker said Spain had good relations with all the countries invited and extensive connections throughout the Middle East.

"We hope the people of the Middle East will have the opportunity to see created an active and viable peace process."

He said extensive letters of assurance had been negotiated with each party, giving hope the response would be positive.

The conference, brokered by the United States and the Soviet Union, is designed to bring together Israel, Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Observers will include Egypt, the Gulf Arab states, the Maghreb countries, the United Nations and the European Community.

Mr. Baker flew to Madrid from Israel for a courtesy call on Mr. Gonzalez after announcing his surprise choice of the Spanish capital as site of the conference.

The invitation stated that the conference, to last three days, would be followed four days later by bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab parties. There was no agreement yet on where such talks

(Continued on page 5)

Baker hopeful on Madrid talks; but no assumptions

MADRID (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Saturday he was hopeful a Middle East peace conference would go ahead in Madrid Oct. 30 and "create an active and viable peace process."

"We are hopeful there will indeed be this conference in Madrid, but we do not take anything for granted and are not making any assumptions," Mr. Baker told a news conference with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Mr. Baker flew to Madrid from Israel for a courtesy call on Mr. Gonzalez after announcing his surprise choice of the Spanish capital as site of the conference.

"We have not found any anxiety or a more willing attitude," Mr. Baker said, thanking Mr. Gonzalez for taking on "this rather large responsibility."

Mr. Baker said his government had 48 hours notice that Madrid might be chosen and confirmation 24 hours later. He thanked Mr. Baker for U.S. confidence in the Spanish government.

"There was no formal word on the site of the conference but the Royal Palace and the Palacio de Congressos, which has housed the European security conference and a European Community summit, have been mentioned as possible venues.

(Continued on page 5)

Kidnappers say hostage can meet wife and child

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Pro-Iranian kidnappers, in a further sign that the Lebanon hostage crisis may be nearing an end, have told one of their hostages that his wife and the daughter he has never met can visit him.

All along, the Palestinians have insisted that they have the right to name their own delegation, and have coordinated their moves with the PLO leadership.

But they apparently have agreed to U.S. compromise proposals, for example having East Jerusalem represented by a delegate who lives in a village on the outskirts of Jerusalem that used to be part of the city before 1967.

She said she would go to Lebanon in a few days, adding: "I hope that it will be longer, than one hour and I hope that they allow him to come home with me. Of course, you know he hasn't seen his daughter at all."

Mr. Turner, 44, a professor of computer science, was kidnapped with fellow American Allam Steen, 52, a professor of mass communication, from Beirut University College by gunmen disguised as policemen in January 1987.

The offer from the group holding Mr. Turner came only hours after a second kidnap group denied it sought guarantees of personal safety for its members if all the hostages are freed.

The developments late Friday gave rise to both optimism and pessimism over changes that the remaining nine Western captives in Lebanon could be freed soon.

They also coincided with a U.S.-Soviet announcement that a Middle East peace conference will convene Oct. 30, during a period when world pressures for Israeli concessions will be acute.

IILP released photos of Mr. Turner and another American it holds, Allam Steen. The other group, called simply Islamic Jihad, released a photo of American journalist Terry Anderson.

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Mr. Turner, 44, a professor of computer science, was kidnapped with fellow American Allam Steen, 52, a professor of mass communication, from Beirut University College by gunmen disguised as policemen in January 1987.

The two groups are believed to operate under the umbrella of Hizbullah (Party of God).

"Everybody should work to achieve this objective," Mr. Kourich quoted Mr. Assad as saying.

Diplomats expect Mr. Pankin to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat who is on a fact-finding visit to Syria ahead of the peace conference.

Officials said Mr. Pankin had earlier discussed arrangements for the peace conference and bilateral cooperation with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharif.

Mr. Pankin praised Syria's support for the peace conference after he arrived in Damascus Friday and said Moscow would work hard to make it a success.

(Continued on page 5)

Pankin pledges to work for Israeli withdrawal

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin pledged Saturday that Moscow would work for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories when landmark peace talks between the Arabs and Israelis open in Madrid on Oct. 30.

Syrian presidential spokesman Joubra Kourich said Mr. Pankin made his promise during talks in Damascus with President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Kourich said that Mr. Pankin, whose country is co-sponsoring the conference with the United States, said Moscow wanted to see a just peace in the Middle East on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for an exchange of occupied land for peace.

The Syrian president reiterated his desire for peace and said all parties should work to achieve it," Mr. Kourich said.

"Everybody has an interest in a just and comprehensive peace. Everybody should work to achieve this objective," Mr. Kourich quoted Mr. Assad as saying.

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1991 3

Centrist candidate elected to Women's Federation presidency; 60 Islamists boycott polls

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A high voter turnout, the election of a centrist candidate as president and the boycott of about 60 Islamist voters who did not register marked the Women's Federation elections Friday.

One of a possible registered voter turnout of 426, 401 women crammed into the Jordanian Chamber of Industries Hall to cast their votes for federation president as well as the eight seats on the executive committee that were being contested.

While the post of president went to centrist candidate Haifa Abu-Ghazaleh, known to have the support of former federation President Haifa Al

Bashir, the "Unity Bloc" a coalition of independent, liberal and leftist women, won a sweeping victory by taking all eight seats on the executive committee.

The race for the post of president hinged on a bloc of thirty votes, reportedly controlled by the Jordanian Communist Party. The bloc of thirty apparently voted for Ms. Abu-Ghazaleh, who received a total of 205 votes, according to federation observers.

The candidate of the Unity Bloc, Rabab Nabuls, received 174 while a third candidate, Leila Abu Nab, received 4 votes. Seventeen blank ballots were cast in the presidential election.

While the ladies that lost showed no hard feelings, it was

evident that the race for president was a close one in that the bloc vote was expected to go to Ms. Nabuls.

The Unity Bloc which Ms. Nabuls represents has at least one communist in its coalition, which won the 8 remaining seats on the 17-seat executive committee. The other 8 seats on the committee go to the president of each governorate in the Kingdom. The president of the federation automatically assumes a seat on the executive committee.

The committee is composed for the first time in the federation's history by a group of semi-politicized women that hope to catapult qualified females in the Kingdom into the public and political arena.

In Jordan, the ladies that lost

said one of the new members of the executive committee.

The boycott of the Islamist women in the federation marked what seemed to be the beginning of yet another round of deliberations on the legality of election procedures.

Spokeswoman for the Islamist group Lutfiyyah Zmeili said that women associated with her group had contacted lawyers to prove that the voting procedures used in Friday's elections were contrary to the federation's constitution.

The Islamist group, she said, would not participate in federation elections until they considered them legal.

The group is closely associated with Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan.

Seminar on food pricing and effects on economy begins

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from nine Arab countries and representatives of various regional organisations affiliated to agricultural and food production sectors Saturday opened a six-day meeting in Amman to discuss pricing policies of food commodities and their effects on marking.

Delegates to the conference, organised by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), will review working papers dealing with government policies in the production and distribution of food commodities and other policies related to subsidising prices.

Addressing the opening session was Agriculture Minister Subhi Al Qasem, who called on countries of the region to step up cooperation in agricultural development fields to promote food production and meet the growing needs of the population.

Technical cooperation among countries of the region is of paramount importance in view of the similarity of their agricultural products, said the minister. Mr. Qasem thanked FAO for organising the seminar which, he said, has its influence in ensuring the success of organisations marketing food commodities.

The question of pricing plays a major and vital role in countries' economies since it is closely linked to world economic changes, he said.

Jordan, like most other countries of the region, suffers from insufficient food production to meet the needs of its people, the minister pointed out. He said that although the Kingdom has had some success in attaining self-sufficiency in the production of vegetables, fruits and poultry meat, it is far from reaching the aspirated levels, especially in the production of wheat and red meat.

He said lack of water remains the major problem facing the agricultural sector in Jordan.

The papers will deal with the pollution of air, water and oil, gas, liquid and solid pollutants, spreading environmental awareness in Jordan, environmental laws and legislations, desertification, industrial pollution, the effects of insecticides on soil and water and ways of controlling pollutants.

The seminar is organized by the Higher Council for Science and Technology, will discuss 20 working papers presented by environmental experts and specialists.

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Soviet cards to play

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER Boris Pankin arrives here on a short visit today against a backdrop of considerable Jordanian and Arab scepticism about Moscow's role in the upcoming peace conference. Rightly so, we think, public opinion is generally apprehensive about the influence the Soviet Union could have over the course of peace negotiations, especially in light of the weakening status of the USSR in the international arena and Moscow's quick restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel as well as the continued flow of Soviet Jewish emigrants into Palestine. In fact, it is not uncommon to hear questions by laymen in the Arab World asking "what could the Soviet Union do?" to help implement U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 when all Moscow appears capable of doing is play second fiddle to the Americans in co-chairing the Madrid conference and to put pressure on Syria and the PLO in order to ensure their participation in the conference and leave it at that.

There are no easy answers to give to our own people on the questions they have for and about the Soviet Union and its role. But there are several things that can be said in defence of our Soviet friends and their role in the upcoming negotiations, not least of which is the special relationship that Moscow has had with much of the Arab World and which continues to this very day. The Soviet Union might indeed be playing second fiddle to the Americans vis-a-vis the conference, and to Israel by virtue of allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate en masse and restoring diplomatic ties without achieving real progress in peace talks. But this should not mean that the USSR has lost all the cards it could play in support of just Arab demands and rights and that Moscow will not take position different from the U.S. or Israel's in the negotiations.

For one thing, and despite all the recent changes inside the Soviet Union, Moscow recognises fully the PLO and Palestinian national rights and insists on full implementation of U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories. Furthermore, Israel and the U.S. should give careful consideration — and they do — to what Moscow thinks about and wants from the peace process, since the Americans but especially the Israelis have at stake a whole gamut of regional factors and bilateral relations to take into account in dealing with the Soviets ranging from the issue of Jewish migration to commercial ties to disarmament in the region to guarantees of final borders that might be agreed upon between the Arabs and Israelis.

Jordan, which has had a consistently friendly and fruitful relationship with the Soviet Union over the years, should understand and not underestimate the great difficulties our Soviet friends face at home. But none of us should ignore the importance of the cards Moscow still holds in the Middle East. We should take the opportunity of Mr. Pankin's visit to our country to further strengthen our partnership in the quest for just and lasting peace. Our common objectives can best be served by continued understanding of where each of us stands and by respecting our mutual interests and outlook.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday referred to the official announcement on the convening of a peace conference in Madrid and said that Israel's unwillingness to reach peace with the Arabs on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions was manifest in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that the Israeli participation was a risk to the Jewish state. It is clear that Israel considers orientation towards peace as a matter forced on it by the superpowers because the Israeli leaders believe that they should not be giving up any part of the occupied Arab territories, said the paper. But it should be noted that the statements of the Soviet and American foreign ministers about their countries' views with regard to the Israeli settlement programme were somewhat reassuring, the paper added. It said that Mr. Baker's reaffirmation that such settlements constitute an obstacle to peace means that Israel is responsible for any obstacles to the peace process. This could mean that Washington, under the circumstances, might resort to announcing further delays in granting housing loan guarantees to the Jewish state until the negotiations with the Arabs are over, said the paper. It said that this could be a very positive step on the part of the American administration because it would prompt Israel to take serious steps to reach a peace settlement with its neighbours and grants the Palestinians their lawful rights. The paper said that the Arabs are going to the peace conference with a genuine desire for peace, but it should be noted that it is up to the superpowers to see to it that Israel's obstacles would not hinder the peace process.

Al Dastoor said that the superpower invitations, to the parties involved in the Middle East problems, to attend the Middle East peace conference marked a new step forward towards the achievement of a lasting settlement in the region. The paper said that the ball is now in the Israeli court and it has to decide at a cabinet meeting Sunday whether to attend the conference or not. It is, however, worrying to the Arabs that Israel has obtained what it has been demanding with regard to the restoration of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and received assurances from the American administration similar to those given to the Arabs, said the paper. It said that it is not a matter of attending the conference, but what the Arabs are anxious to see is whether the Israelis will carry out the U.N. Security Council resolutions and exchange land for peace. The paper said that the U.S. diplomacy is now needed more than at any time in the past to pave the way for successful negotiations leading to a lasting and just settlement.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Turkish water conference and peace pipeline

TURKEY issued invitations to several Middle Eastern countries and the United States to attend a conference, over water resources in the Middle East, to be convened next month. It is likely that the conference will be postponed because Syria threatened not to participate if Israel is invited while the United States announced that it will boycott the conference unless Israel is present.

The Turkish-sponsored conference is meant to promote the idea of regional cooperation over water, so that Israel will become a legitimate partner in the ownership and management of water in the whole region. Turkey's aim is to market water, as an export commodity, through a pipeline that will carry the water of Siloum and Jezour rivers, in south east Turkey, to Saudi Arabia, via Syria and Jordan, provided Saudi Arabia will underwrite the costs of building the pipeline and its operation. The pipeline will benefit Jordan and Israel besides Saudi Arabia (Syria is not interested). This may entail some kind of cooperation and coordination with Israel before the Palestinian question is resolved and a lasting peace is achieved.

American think tanks and institutions of strategic studies, some of them are offshoots of the Israeli lobby, showered us recently with studies and reports warning that the Middle East will be

plagued in the coming decade by bloody wars over water. The purpose is to suggest that lack of stability in the Middle East is not caused by the protracted Israeli occupation of Arab lands, nor by the Western zeal to control Arab oil; it is rather caused by the imminent water crisis, or the time bomb about to explode.

In this respect, Dr. Joyce Star, who used to work for the Israeli lobby (AIPAC) before she was transformed, somehow, into a researcher specialising in the problem of water in the Middle East, thus enjoying the appearance of scientific objectivity and honesty to mask her service to the Israeli design, was very prominent.

The Turkish-Arab relations were always troubled by mutual suspicions. Turkey can demonstrate its goodwill towards its Arab neighbours by concluding a treaty with both Syria and Iraq to fairly divide the water of Euphrates and Tigris among the three countries before trying to solve the water crisis in the Arab Peninsula and Israel.

As far as we in Jordan are concerned, the water crisis has already become acute. All surface water resources are on the borders. In each case Jordan was deprived of its fair share of both River Jordan or Yarmouk River water, due to the Israeli selfishness and power politics.

In spite of our reservations against any regional project that entails any form of cooperation with Israel before reaching a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question, and against dependency on an external source of water which can be interrupted at any time in the future for any reason, thus placing Jordan at the mercy of the source and transiting countries, we have to admit our bad need of new sources of water for civilian, industrial and irrigation purposes. The Turkish peace pipeline would of course be able to alleviate Jordan's water crisis if it made available some 500 million cubic metres of water at a reasonable price.

Caught between political reservations on the one hand and economic necessities on the other, we have to evaluate the Turkish peace pipeline project carefully, and weight the economic benefits against the political and security risks. Jordan needs to reach a definite position towards the project, within the framework of a unified Arab position. This calls for immediate inter-Arab coordination. The secretary general of the Arab League called for such Arab coordination on water. It is not known why the secretary general did not follow up on his own idea, and has not yet called for an Arab coordination meeting to precede the questionable Turkish conference.

Arabs have few bargaining chips in peace talks

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — The Arabs go to the Middle East peace talks from Israel, their foe for the last half-century, with few bargaining chips and in as much disarray as they met the Jewish challenge in 1948.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's announcement in Jerusalem that the peace conference will be convened in Madrid Oct. 30 caused little outward excitement in Arab capitals.

Still, it will be the first multi-party meeting between Arab and Jew in nearly 20 years.

In light of America's emergence as the only superpower in a world much changed since 1948, there is a hope that the 43-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict may now be resolved — even though old hatreds may not vanish overnight. Obstacles remain.

The Arabs want the return of all Arab land occupied by the Israelis since their sweeping vic-

tory in the Arab-Israeli war — the West Bank seized from Jordan, Egypt's Gaza Strip, Syria's Golan Heights as well as a buffer zone in South Lebanon held since 1978.

But the Israelis have ad-

mitted that they do not intend to exchange land for peace.

For many Israelis, the lands captured in 1967 exceeded Israel's borders to give the Jewish state strategic depth for the first time since it was founded.

They believe that giving up these lands, increasingly populated by Jewish settlers, is political and military suicide.

But in recent years, almost imperceptibly, most Arab leaders have accepted that the state of Israel is now a reality with which they must live.

Even the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), among the most intractable of Israel's enemies, is now prepared to accept half a loaf rather than none — an independent homeland in the West Bank and Gaza. Whether

they get it is open to question.

To secure Israel's participation in the peace talks, the Americans had to make some major concessions to the Jewish state that, on the face of it, leave little room for manoeuvre.

The United States said it opposed the creation of a Palesti-

nian state on Israel's borders and has grudgingly turned a blind eye to the Jewish settlements still springing up in the occupied lands as the Palestinian uprising that erupted in December 1987 loses momentum.

Analyst William Quandt of Washington's Brookings Institu-

tion noted that until the United States forces or persuades the Shamir government to stop building settlements in the occupied West Bank, "there will be no real progress towards a peace agreement."

With Soviet Jews flooding into the country at a rate of 10,000-20,000 a month — some 200,000 arrived in 1989 alone — Israel is faced with a major challenge in absorbing them and surrendering the occupied territories could crimp that strategic objective.

Mr. Quandt said "Israel holds the best cards," including the occupied land and military superiority.

The Arabs have little with which to counter that, particularly since Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war stripped them of a major military asset.

The Arabs failed to prevent the birth of the infant Jewish state emerging in 1948 because they lacked an overall strategy and were constantly quarrelling among themselves.

This underlying weakness has been at the root of their defeats in every other Arab-Israeli war since, and one Israel has repeatedly exploited.

Israel accepted a United Nations recommendation partitioning Palestine into Arab and Jewish states in 1948. But the Arabs rejected that.

It's ironic that had the Palestinians accepted what was offered in 1948, they would have had more land than they're asking for now.

Once the British withdrew after a 26-year League of Nations man-

date, the Jews expanded their territory in bitter fighting.

Talks held in 1949 in Lausanne, Switzerland, under U.N. auspices collapsed, mainly over the question of Palestinian refugees.

The Arabs wanted Israel to take back all 700,000 Palestinians who had fled or were forced out in the war. The Israelis, fearful of being swamped by Arabs, balked at that.

After the 1973 war, when Egypt and Syria initially had the Israelis on the run, the United Nations sponsored another round of peace talks in Geneva.

Syria, the rejectionist radical, refused to attend. Egypt, Jordan and Israel did. But they made opening statements that only served to undermine their enmity.

The conference adjourned after one day and never reconvened.

When the late President Anwar Sadat made peace with Israel in 1979, Egypt was ostracised by the Arab World. It took more than a decade for his moderate successor, Hosni Mubarak, to overcome that.

Khalil Barhoum of Stanford University, California, lamented in a recent paper that with Iraq's Gulf war defeat and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Arab bargaining power has seriously declined.

"Observing all the preconditions Israel has placed recently on the Arabs — with full U.S. backing — before agreeing to enter the bilateral, face-to-face negotiations with them, one is left with the abiding impression of a victorious party merely dictating its terms of surrender to the vanquished," he said.

Baker scores a triumph, but now the real problems begin

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

Already there have been some signs of trouble ahead.

Syria announced this week that it will not attend the multilateral talks. That, says Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, is "absolutely negative and doesn't promise much."

The Palestinian issue could also be problematic. Israel has vowed not to sit with Palestinians who do not live in the occupied territories, or who belong to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Palestinians gave Mr. Baker a list of their delegates Friday, but forbade him to show it to the Israelis. If Palestinians who do not live in the occupied territories, or who belong to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Just to get this far has taken Mr. Baker eight trips to the Middle East, spending hours in painstaking discussions with the key players, Israel, Syria and the Palestinians, plus side trips to Egypt, Jordan and the Gulf.

But the conference will be meaningless unless it gets to grips with what is really at stake here: the Arabs' demand to get back land they lost to Israel in the 1967 Mideast War, and Israel's insistence that the Arabs prove their sincere acceptance of the Jewish state.

Neither side has much faith in the other.

Focusing on the land, the Arabs are bound to make an immediate demand for Israel to stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For Israel, the test of the conference is not what happens Oct. 30 in Madrid, but what comes after. It says the conference must immediately proceed to direct negotiations between Israel and each Arab state. It also wants multilateral talks at which regional issues like water conservation and disarmament can be dealt with.

"Old suspicions won't disappear quickly. The gaps are real and the gaps will not be easily overcome," Mr. Baker said in Jerusalem Friday. "But we take encouragement from issuance of these invitations."

Sectarian warfare returns to terror-stricken Belfast streets

By Jim Campbell
Reuter

BELFAST — In the Protestant and Catholic ghettos of Belfast, people are now afraid to go out at night. They won't even answer the door after dark.

Burly security men guard pub doors, vigilantes prowl the streets on the lookout for unfamiliar faces.

Belfast is back to the bloody days of the 1970's. Gunmen from both sides of the sectarian divide have taken to the streets with increasing ferocity.

With church and political leaders seriously alarmed by the escalating violence — the death toll is already nearing last year's total of 76, and climbing fast — police have set up a special squad to track down the killer gangs.

But some community groups say this is a cosmetic exercise. Many uniformed and undercover police and soldiers are already on the ground in the ghettos of north and west Belfast, but gunmen are

seldom stopped or caught in the act.

Paramilitary leaders from the Protestant side that wants this northern enclave to remain British and the Catholic republicans who want a united Ireland say the spiral of "tit-for-tat" killings is likely to continue. Neither side wants to be seen to be the first to back down and lose face with their hardline supporters.

Cardinal Cahal Daly, spiritual leader of four million Roman Catholics on both sides of the border, said the murder gangs were taking Northern Ireland to the brink of a sectarian conflict more bloody than anything seen in the past 20 years.

Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke warned that "political ends cannot be achieved out of the barrel of a gun."

They have been nicknamed "the Catholic butchers" because their methods recall "the Shankill butchers," a gang which slashed the throats of dozens of Catholics in the 1970's until their leader

Liam Murphy was killed by IRA.

Taxi drivers were the next victims. Both sides began killing cabbies — easy targets who could be murdered at will when they picked up fares in the ghettos.

Now taxi drivers are more selective, and many are staying home.

The big fear in Catholic west Belfast is that Protestant gunmen, better armed and organised than ever, will single out a pub or bar for a mass attack. That's why bar doors are reinforced, booted and guarded.

Typical of the victims of these random killings was Kari Hegney, an unemployed painter ambushed by Protestant gunmen on his way home. His wife, Pauline, 26, her face puffed and tear-stained, asked: "What is all of this supposed to achieve? Surely it is time all this killing stopped? It seems the innocent suffer the worst but I harbour no bitterness for the men who killed him. There is no hatred in me, only a terrible emptiness and sadness."

Tortured by the brutalised

By Robert Fisk

BEIRUT — A few days after the American guided-missile cruiser Vincennes shot down the Iranian A 300 civilian airliner over Lebanon on July 3, 1988, killing all 290 innocent souls on board, a gunman burst into the underground cell in Lebanon in which U.S. Lt.-Col. William Higgins was being held hostage.

Lt.-Col Higgins had been kidnapped in Lebanon almost five months earlier, on Feb. 17, a feisty, tough, foolhardy man who was the head of the United Nations observer group supervising the 1948 truce between Lebanon and Israel. The Shiite gunman, shaking with anger at the report that the Americans had shot down the Airbus, asked Lt.-Col Higgins for his reaction to the news. According to U.N. officers who investigated his case, Lt.-Col. Higgins — probably unaware that the Iranian plane was a civilian airliner — expressed his satisfaction.

Enraged by this response, the gunman, according to the same officials, pointed his Kalashnikov automatic rifle at the unarmed American and opened fire with a full clip of ammunition, killing him instantly. Did outrage or sadism provoke this man to shoot Lt.-Col Higgins? Murder or manslaughter? A year after his death, Lt.-Col. Higgins's kidnappers released a videotape of their captive, hanging from a rope, claiming he had just been "executed" in retaliation for the Israeli kidnapping of the Shiite cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid.

Thus can anger and cruelty shape the behaviour of Lebanon's kidnappers. Jackie Mann's revelations of his treatment in the cellars of Beirut are in no way unique. Indeed, they are mild compared to the savagery meted out against other captives in Lebanon. Kidnapped Lebanese — thousands of forgotten prisoners whom the West has always ignored — provide infinitely more terrible stories of their captivity.

Christian militiamen captured by their Druze opposite numbers were tortured to death with red-hot irons in the Chouf mountains in 1983, while Christian gunmen gang-raped and then butchered kidnapped Druze women. Only because we in the West choose to forget that Arabs have suffered from the plague of abduction far more grievously than Westerners are we surprised at the apparent inhumanity of the captors.

Let us go back, however, to

1985, when the wave of kidnapping first embraced Americans and Europeans. Lebanon had endured two Israeli invasions, the massacre of certainly hundreds and perhaps as many as 2,000 Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps by Israel's allies, the artillery and aerial bombardment of Muslim militias by American and French forces.

Israel had used an "iron fist" — its own dreadful description — against the rebellious Shiite villages of southern Lebanon. In the Gulf, the West was giving logistic, military and political support to the Arab leader who had invaded Iran — a man called Saddam Hussein — while hundreds of Lebanese guerrilla fighters locked up by America's Israeli allies in Lebanon were, according to Amnesty International, routinely tortured with electricity.

Working as a journalist in this brutal world, Terry Anderson, the Associated Press bureau chief in Beirut, was also kidnapped. Mr. Terry had risked his life among the Shiites of Beirut to report the U.S. Marine bombardment of their homes during the American-Shiite fighting of 1983. He was — is — a fine man who least deserved his fate. We now know that he was kept for the first two months of his captivity in a room of darkness in the basement of a ruined hotel, chained to the wall, constantly told he was to be "executed." He later described to fellow prisoners how he wept during those terrible days, despairing of ever seeing his family again.

He was beaten. So were the other American hostages who later joined him. Mr. Anderson watched another captive — the kidnapped CIA station chief, William Buckley — die from ill-treatment, and years later Mr. Anderson was seen beating his head in desperation against his cell until his blood ran down the wall. When Tom Sutherland, the kidnapped American dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, was brought letters from his family, his kidnappers showed him his mail, but at first refused to hand it over on the grounds that he too was a CIA agent. Only when his fellow hostage, Father Lawrence Jenco, went down on his knees before the kidnappers, pleading for their kindness towards a totally innocent man, did they hand over the letters.

Fear that their identity would be discovered prompts almost all Lebanese kidnappers to insist

that their captives remain blindfolded for hours each day. Jackie Mann was told to put a towel over his head each time his captor entered his cell. Other Westerners have spent days — in one case months — with their eyes tightly bound with cloth. Even when he was trying to negotiate the release of American captives in 1985 — while still technically a free man — Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, was forced to sit on a hard chair with his eyes bound while kidnappers threatened his own life as well as those of the hostages.

When Mr. Waite himself became a captive, he appears to have been kept in isolation for at least two years, sick and in despair, usually blindfolded and always suspected of being a spy by kidnappers who were aware of his meeting with then Vice-President George Bush and Lt.-Col. Oliver North. So ill did he become that his captors feared he would not survive his imprisonment and tried to prepare the ground for his possible demise by telling journalists in Beirut that he had already died.

When the French hostage Michel Seurat was dying of cancer, he was cared for only by a Lebanese Jewish doctor, also a hostage, whose "execution" was later claimed by the kidnappers. Mr. Seurat asked to be moved to a room away from his fellow captives. When he died there, his kidnappers announced that he too had been "executed." Once Mr. Waite was out of danger — after which he was joined by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Sutherland and the British hostage John McCarthy — the stories of his death suddenly ended.

There have been individual cases of sadism. Several freed Western hostages — not Mr. Mann — recounted mock executions. The kidnappers of the American Joseph Cicippio forced him to make a videotape announcing his imminent execution, in which he tearfully said a "final" goodbye to his young Lebanese wife — before being "reprieved" by his captors. A French journalist abducted in West Beirut tried to commit suicide after repeatedly being told that he would spend the rest of his life in a cellar.

After years drenched in perspiration during Beirut's hot summers, hostages were given air-conditioning, only to find that the sound of the machine damaged their eardrums. A Belgian captive held by Palestinians was not

Mixed reaction among Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

we can get out of the conference and how important we are to the Americans."

People on the sceptical camp, however, argued that the U.S. should not be trusted as a fair sponsor of Arab-Israeli negotiations because of the country's historic support of the Jewish state.

The traditional relationship between the U.S. and Israel does not give the Americans the objectivity or fairness to play the role of the referee during this conference," said Fu'ad Majdalawi, a 23-year-old accountant, adding that it would be natural for the U.S. to side with Israel throughout the talks.

Mr. Majdalawi said that this was the wrong time for the Arabs to begin negotiations with Israel, saying that the Arabs "have never been so divided before, thus weakening their position."

"Besides, how could the Arab countries who participated in launching a full-fledged war against another Arab country, Iraq, and continue to sanction that country, is now willing to sit with the Israelis and make peace?" he asked angrily.

"In fact, it would be politically naive for Israel to give up anything to the Arabs when it is in such a weak position," commented Mr. Majdalawi.

Jamal Abu Ammar, a sales manager at a computer company, agreed with him, saying that the outcome of the conference would be "disappointing" to the Arabs.

"We make demands, but from a very weak position, so why should Israel and the U.S. — both in a very strong position — give anything to the weak?" he asked pessimistically.

Hiba Sudah, a 21-year-old secretary held a similar opinion and described the Arabs' participation in the upcoming conference as "the first step towards achieving the full rights of the Palestinian people." He also believes that the U.S. will exert pressure on Israel to give up the

occupied territories "because the U.S. will do what it wants."

For Mohammad Odeh, a junior at one of Amman's hotels, the peace conference means easing restrictions for him to visit his home in the West Bank.

"The important thing for me is that I won't pay JD160 to the Israelis every time they give me a permit to visit the West Bank," he told the Jordan Times, adding that he did not follow political news.

"I fully support the idea of this conference," said Jihad Hamdi, an airconditioning technician, who was drinking tea with a group of other young men at an Amman cafe.

"I believe that the U.S. and the Soviet Union will pressure Israel into giving up the occupied territories and implement international resolutions in our favour," he told the Jordan Times as his friends nodded in agreement.

He was optimistic that the conference would solve the Palestinian problem, "especially that the PLO will be behind the scenes giving instructions to their negotiating team, and which will make the final decisions."

Thirty-eight-year-old Saleh Muszafa, a baker, described the conference as "the first step towards achieving the full rights of the Palestinian people." He also believes that the U.S. will exert pressure on Israel to give up the

occupied territories "so that the Arabs will sign Palestinians to the Israeli forever."

However, Mrs. Abdallah, a mother of six, believes that Israel would give some territory back to the Palestinians or Jordan in exchange for peace. "But what is the territory and how much are we getting?" she asked.

For Nadim Dabbour, a businessman, the outcome of the conference would benefit Israel and provide "only temporary security and stability in the region."

Mr. Dabbour, who cynically described any future treaty between the Arabs and Israelis as an "economic agreement," insists that Israel would live up to its word that it will not give up any territory and might only "provide a symbolic kind of autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied territories."

Several people who appeared sympathetic or supportive of Islamists groups were approached, but declined comment when asked their opinion by the Jordan Times.

Islamists have announced that they oppose the upcoming negotiations with Israel due to ideological reasons. They reject any compromise on Palestine with the Jewish state which they refuse to recognize and believe that all of Palestine must be liberated through Jihad.

wars and mutual destruction," he said.

The senior-most American and Soviet diplomats in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt delivered similar invitations to the respective foreign ministers.

The Palestinian invitation was delivered to activist Faisal Husseini at Arab Jerusalem by the American consul.

Bahrain, Tunisia and Morocco also reported receiving the invitations.

France pledged Saturday to support the Middle East peace talks and called on participants to show good faith during the parley.

A short Lebanon Foreign Ministry statement said: "U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Soviet Ambassador Gennady Illichev jointly handed the invitation letter to Foreign Minister Fares Bzeil upon his return from Damascus last Friday."

Bahrain announced the receipt of the invitation to the peace conference at the beginning of a lengthy road.

"We hope it will also allow the peoples of the region to move towards building a prosperous future and channel their energies towards development instead of spending on

Jordan accepts invitation

(Continued from page 1)

the Spanish government's satisfaction for hosting the conference and said Spain would extend all efforts to make the peace process a success.

"The road to peace is long and hard, but once the parties started the negotiations an atmosphere of mutual confidence would be created," he added.

Madrid will also host the multiparty negotiations after the opening of the conference, he said.

Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif described the decision of the United States and the Soviet Union to issue invitations for the conference as "a historic turning point."

Jordan, told reporters, hoped the talks would lead to a "new page in the history of the region in which peoples coexist, the demands of the Palestinians are met and their rights are respected."

Mr. Sharif, another young secretary, argued with Ms. Sudah saying that there was no reason to oppose the conference.

"It's not wrong to go to the conference if there is some hope," she responded to her colleague. "And if we can't get anything, we have nothing to lose and we won't be blamed for trying."

"Sa'ad Batayneh and Maysa Ma'ani, both architects, said that there should be no question on participating in the conference, because "any outcome from the negotiations would be better than our current situation."

"My concern is that the Arabs must go to the negotiating table with clear objectives, strong terms and demands, and concentrate on the quality of the negotiations," Mr. Batayneh, 36, told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Cavares expressed delight and

Assad and Arafat meet

(Continued from page 1)

for a summit of leaders in the front line of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Arafat was met at the airport Saturday morning by Vice President Khaddam. It was the first time the PLO leader has been greeted here at such a high level but short of what could have been accorded him as head of the Palestinian state.

He went immediately to Rawda Palace, a guest mansion normally used for visiting dignitaries on the level of prime minister.

Sources said Mr. Khaddam then met with Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian leaders: Yasser Arafat, the PLO's information chief, Communist Party leader Suliman Nujayib, local PLO representative Mahmud Khalidi, and independents Zuhdi Nasha Shibi and Shawfiq Al Houw.

Farouq Khaddoumi, the Palestinian foreign minister in the

government-in-exile, met with Mr. Fiskin, the source said.

Mr. Arafat and Damascus cut ties when Syria backed a rebellion against his leadership by Colonel Abu Musa in 1983.

Mr. Arafat's only visit to Syria since then was in 1988 when he came to Damascus for the funeral of his military deputy Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jund) who was assassinated in Tunis by Israeli agents.

The two leaders also met on the sidelines of Arab summits in Algeria and Morocco but relations remained cool.

In Tunis this week Mr. Arafat overcame hurdle opposition to rally the Palestinian Central Council behind a Palestinian presence at the peace conference.

Diplomats expected Mr. Arafat to have talks with representatives of Palestinian opponents based in the Syrian capital including the Palestine National Salvation Front of four

groups not represented in the PLO.

Other groups, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) have agreed to the peace conference although they disagree on some conditions.

PFLP leader George Habash said Saturday the decision to accept a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation was "a big blow to the PLO."

The PLO is standing on a dangerous slide after it submitted to the American conditions, (its) surrender in policy and the gratuitous concessions."

Some of the Palestinian leaders were in Tehran for a four-day Iranian-sponsored conference on Palestine. Iran's Islamic leaders have taken a hardline stance against negotiating with Israel.

The general view here is that almost all factions accept the idea that the conference will be held, even if they do not believe it will yield the desired result of Israel returning occupied territories to the Arabs.

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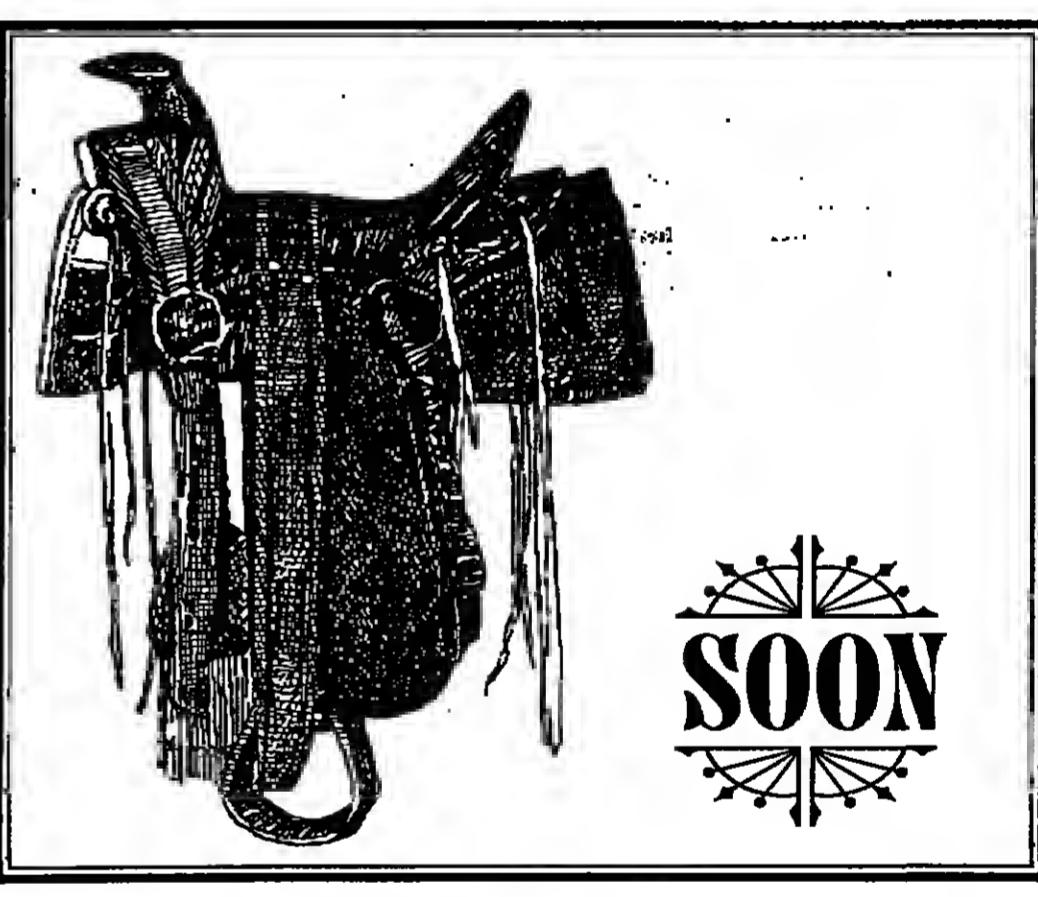
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Berger wins pole position at Japanese Grand Prix

SUZUKA, Japan (AP) — Gerhard Berger of Austria held onto the pole position for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix with a lap record in the second qualifying round in his McLaren-Honda.

Berger, who earned the provisional pole Friday, bettered his time Saturday by robbing the 5.86-kilometre Suzuka circuit, Honda's home turf, in 1 minute, 34.700 seconds. That gave him an average speed of 222.919 kilometres per hour.

His teammate, Ayrton Senna of Brazil, was second at 1:34.896, followed by Britain Nigel Mansell at 1:34.922.

Saturday's results, which determine the starting grid for Sunday's Formula One race, set back Mansell's hopes of winning the first overall driver's title in his 11-year career.

Senna, winner of the overall title in 1988 and 1990, came to Suzuka with 85 points, 16 points ahead of Mansell, his closest competitor.

The top three drivers all reduced their qualifying lap times from the previous record of 1:36.996, set by Senna last year. "It was a very good lap," said Berger, who won the Suzuka race in 1987.

It was his eighth pole position in 114 career races. He took the lead spot in the Spanish Grand Prix three weeks ago.

Berger said he could have driven faster but "had a slight

clutch problem which stopped me getting out of sixth and fifth gears."

The Austrian said he felt much more confident than earlier in the season.

"If you looked at my year, I've had good races, good qualifying. The next thing is to put out a mind to win," he said.

Berger said he hoped that a good performance Sunday also could help McLaren-Honda win the constructor's title.

McLaren-Honda has dominated the constructor's title to recent years, but this year Williams-Renault has taken the lead.

Senna said of the season's Driver's Championship: "I feel good, but I am under no illusions."

"The race is going to be very tough, but I think things are slowly coming our way, step by step. I hope tomorrow will be the last of those steps," he added.

He said the team had worked extensively on his machine, and that chassis balance would be crucial in Sunday's race.

Mansell must win both here and in the final race in Adelaide, Australia, next month, with Senna finishing no better than fifth, to give him the title.

"It would have been nice to start from the front row. We'll have to wait until tomorrow to see if they (the leaders) are as gross in the race," he said.

Senna's archival, Alain Prost

of France, driving a Ferrari, finished fourth at 1:36.670, with Riccardo Patrese of Italy, driving a Williams-Renault, next at 1:36.882.

In the better rivalry between Senna and Prost, Senna was disqualified and lost his overall title here two years ago after a crash with Prost at the chicane. Last year, they crashed again, and Senna won back the title.

Prost ranks fourth this year with 31 points, and is out of title contention.

Japan's main hope, Satoru Nakajima, came in 15th at 1:39.118 in his Tyrell-Honda. Thousands of Japanese fans, many waving national flags with his name written in Japanese, wished him a victory here because it will be his last race in his home country.

Nakajima has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

Saturday's qualifying was interrupted for about 20 minutes due to a crash by Michael Schumacher, who spun and hit a curb, badly damaging the rear wing of his Benetton-Ford. He walked away from the accident, and there was no immediate report of any injuries.

On Friday, Eric Bernard of France damaged his Lola-Ford and fractured his left leg during the free practice session, delaying the qualifying later in the day.

Tyson's rib injury postpones fight with Holyfield

LAS VEGAS (R) — The Nov. 8 world heavyweight title fight between champion Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson was postponed Friday because of an injury to Tyson's left rib cage, fight organisers said.

A brief statement from Caesars Palace, the scheduled site for the fight, expected to be the richest in history, said Tyson suffered the injury on Oct. 8 and re-injured it on Oct. 15 while training.

The statement said it was a "non-contact cartilage injury." No explanation was immediately available.

Tyson was "examined by Dr. Gerald L. Higgins, an orthopaedic surgeon in Las Vegas who recommended the postponement of the bout," the statement said.

It said promoters of the bout are discussing dates to reschedule the fight, which was expected to gross \$100 million, as Tyson attempted to regain the title he



Mike Tyson

lost in February 1990 when James "Buster" Douglas knocked him out.

"The fight is definitely off. It's (just) a postponement," said Rich Rose, president of Caesars World Sports, who was in Atlantic City. He said a new date for the fight should be announced this weekend.

Holyfield, who won the title by knocking out Douglas last October, was guaranteed \$30 million and Tyson \$15 million for their

scheduled 12-round showdown for which Tyson was a 2-1 favourite in the early betting line.

One source said Tyson must avoid contact for six to eight weeks. Another report said the fight might take place in early January.

Tyson is scheduled to stand trial on Jan. 27 in Indianapolis, Indiana, on charges that he raped a beauty pageant contestant in his hotel room last July.

Tyson has denied the charges.

Candidates bid to impress IOC members

SYDNEY (AP) — Sydney opted for a vibrant video presentation, Peking stuck to the facts. Manchester emphasised its history, while Berlin stressed its new solidarities.

Four leading contenders to play host to the Olympic Games in the year 2000 took the floor Saturday at the 25th congress of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

All were hoping to make a good early impression on the 21 voting members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) who were among the 300 GAISF delegates.

The IOC will choose the host city at its meeting in Monte Carlo in late 1993.

The Lakers take on Jevolut Badalona of Spain in the final. The Spanish champions downed a depleted Yugoslavian team, Slovoda Dalmacija, in the opener, 117-86.

Johnson played just 26 minutes but had 21 assists with 7 points as the Lakers rotated lineups to give everyone playing time. Vlad Divac played 25 minutes and led the Lakers with 23 points.

Stephane Ostrowski topped the Limoges scorers with 26 points.

Johnson did not disappoint the full house.

"Showtime is a number of things, it's not only dunks," said Johnson. "It's moving the ball, getting jumpers."

After a 29-24 first quarter lead for the Lakers, Johnson sat on the bench for the opening minutes of the second period as Limoges stayed close until 39-35.

Magic returned, delivered two assists to Divac, had a three-pointer and helped to pump the score to 51-37.

Olympic host cities.

IOC Director-General Francois Carrard said the current bidding process, in which the 94 IOC members are lobbied by candidate cities, was not perfect.

China is seeking its first Olympics and Peking took a statistical approach.

Olympic Committee Secretary General Jizhong Wei concentrated his speech on the stadiums, hotels and transport systems which are in place or ready for construction for the Olympics.

New South Wales State Premier Nick Greiner, who supports Sydney's bid, said his state's capital city faced a tough task.

Delegates at the GAISF conference have discussed possible reforms to the system of selecting

the host city.

Sydney bid chief executive Rod McGroarty gave a brief speech and then played a short video featuring shots of the outback, famous Australian athletes and examples of major sporting events held nationwide over the past six years.

Sydney's package was intentionally youthful, with shots of young athletes hacked by a pounding rock rhythm.

It contrasted with the lower key approach taken by the other three contenders. Brasilia, Brazil, which also has announced its candidacy, was not present.

Manchester Committee member Michael Dyble recalled inventions which have sprung from the northern English city, pointing out it was the first city to have a public transportation system.

His colleague, Sir Philip Carter, said: "We are building on lessons learned in the (unsuccessful) 1996 campaign and our 2000 bid will be so much stronger."

German Minister of Sports and Education Juergen Klemann urged all delegates to share his

their division last year with the worst record in Major League baseball, were 100-1 to 300-to-1 longshots to win the World Series.

The Twins, who also finished first in their division last year, were 60-1 to 100-1 underdogs.

"We had the Twins at 80-1 and the Braves at 250," Manteris said.

The Stardust's pre-season favorite to win the World Series was the Oakland Athletics at 3-1, followed by the New York Mets at 6-1, Espin said.

For the best-of-seven World Series that opens Saturday the odds favor the Twins slightly.

"The Minnesota Twins are 6-to-5 favorites to defeat the Braves," said Vince Magliulo, sports book manager at Caesar's Palace.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful Sunday for you to expand your religious, spiritual, educational (and/or) scientific interests so you will have a greater amount of peace, serenity and understanding in the days ahead.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a fine day to concentrate upon getting all of your practical affairs on a much better foundation and basis so you evidence more prosperity.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your charm is high and you have it in your power to show it to a real charmer and can please those personal ties who rely upon you for some laughter.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are in a busy mood now and can well utilize this to gain the private information you need so that you can make your own special ideas a part of your life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Whatever you want to do to gain the good will of partners is fine now if you will get in touch with them and explain just what you have in mind.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are no may project for you to do than a moment should not be lost in delaying so make up your mind early and then perform tasks with courage.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is your time to show off a bit and to thoroughly enjoy the outlets that make you feel you are really living on top of the world.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your interest now is apt to be strongest in getting all of your affairs on a more solid and secure structure so think out a practical course under which to operate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Dash around seeing and being with usual allies, making your daily affairs more suitable and satisfactory and have appointments with those able to aid you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Instead of marshmallows, it has aspirin, stomach pills and tranquilizers."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

MICHE

© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TUSEA

© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CALPEA

© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

HARTHIS

© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

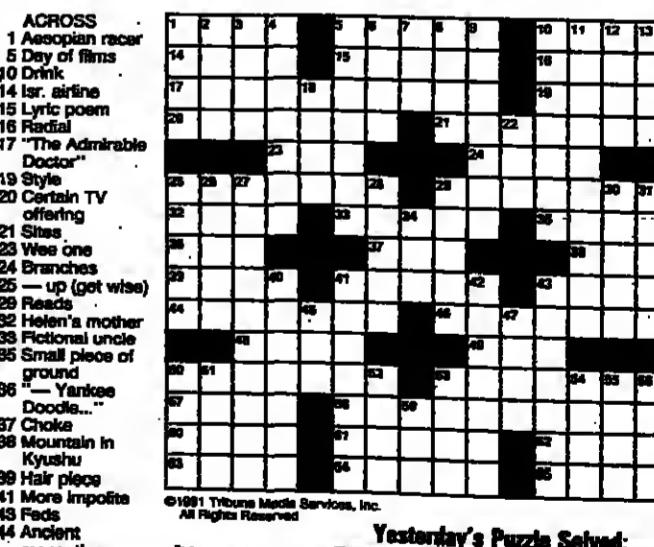
Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KINKY FORAY DECEIT PROFIT
Answer: That cynic said that the world is neither round nor flat, but this—CROOKED

THE Daily Crossword

by Bernice Gordon



Financial Markets		Jordanian			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank					
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York close Date 18/10/91	New York close Date 17/10/91			
Sterling Pound*	1.7265	1.7190			
Deutsche Mark	1.6873	1.6958			
Swiss Franc	1.4955	1.4805			
French Franc	5.7515	5.7780			
Japanese Yen	129.85	129.38			
European Currency Unit	1.2135	1.2033**			
* USD Per STG.					
** Euro opening @ 8.40 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 18/10/91					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.25	5.25		
Sterling Pound	10.45	10.31	10.18		
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.31	9.25		
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	8.18		
French Franc	8.93	9.09	9.15		
Japanese Yen	6.53	6.28	5.96		
European Currency Unit	9.36	9.75	9.75		
Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Previous Month Date: 18/10/91					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	367.90	7.05	Silver	4.155	0.092
* 21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 19/10/91					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6850	0.6870			
Sterling Pound	1.1811	1.1870			
Deutsche Mark	0.4053	0.4073			
Swiss Franc	0.4635	0.4653			
French Franc	0.1190	0.1196			
Japanese Yen*	0.5268	0.5294			
Dutch Guilder	0.3598	0.3616			
Swedish Krona	0.1111	0.1117			
Italian Lira*	0.0542	0.0545			
Belgian Franc	0.01971	0.01981			
* Per 100 Other Currencies Date: 19/10/91					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahrain Dinar	1.757	1.797			
Lebanese Lira*	0.0714	0.0771			
Saudi Riyal	0.1824	0.1834			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	0.1858	0.1868			
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2180			
Omani Riyal	1.754	1.764			
UAE Dirham	0.1858	0.1868			
Greek Drachma*	0.3698	0.3798			
Cypriot Pound	1.4650	1.4650			
* Per 100 CAR Indices for Amman Financial Markets					
Index	9/10/91	Close	16/10/91		
All-Share	122.01	123.06			
Banking Sector	103.10	104.21			
Insurance Sector	125.10	125.56			
Industry Sector	150.61	151.56			
Services Sector	130.10	131.55			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

Wall Street stocks end week at record high

NEW YORK (R) — Four years after their worst crash in history Wall Street stocks ended at record highs Friday, propelled by corporate earnings reports that were slightly better than expected and lower interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 24.15 points at 3,077.15, topping the prior record set Wednesday.

Nearly four years ago to today, the 30-stock index had its darkest day, plunging 508 points to 1,738.74 on Oct. 19, 1987.

Volume was brisk at 204 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange, with advancing issues edging decliners 875 to 724.

The average share gained six U.S. cents.

The upswing was also fuelled by a rebound in bond prices after Thursday's freefall on disappointment that the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, did not lower interest rates.

"The rally was cut short yesterday (Thursday) because of the sharp drop in bond prices," said Robert Walberg, equity analyst at MSS International. The Dow index lost 8.72 points Thursday.

"When the bond market turned around, that allowed stocks to resume the rally."

But Friday, the benchmark 30-year bond gained 23/32 of a point,

recapturing much of Thursday's losses. Its yield fell to 7.96 per cent from 8.02 per cent.

Bond prices go up when interest rates go down, a factor that makes stocks more attractive investments at that time.

Market watchers said better-than-expected earnings reports helped spur the advance in the stock market.

"There's a focus on earnings and most are being viewed in a positive light," one trad said.

While some companies have reported weak results, there was a growing consensus on Wall Street that corporate America may have the brunt of the recession behind it. This has buoyed sentiment and attracted investors to stocks.

"Some of the companies that have really suffered seem to be looking like maybe things are turning in the next quarter or two," said Peter Hagerman, chief executive officer at Hallmark Capital Management.

He said the stock market has also been rising on hopes that President George Bush might again attempt to stimulate the economy by proposing a tax package that includes a capital gains cut, a move he has long sought.

British jobless total nears 2.5 million

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain's jobless total climbed close 2.5 million for the first time in three years last month but the slower than expected rise provided some comfort for a government fighting recession.

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rose by 35,700 in September to reach 2.46 million or 8.7 per cent of the workforce. It was the smallest monthly increase in almost a year.

The government acknowledges that any improvement in unemployment figures will lag behind the economic recovery which it says is just starting to get under way.

But Employment Secretary Michael Howard welcomed the figures, which were much lower than economists had forecast.

Economists said the figures were encouraging but would not give much of a boost to recovery hopes.

The government can take some heart from the latest figures but the outlook for unemployment remains grim," said Ruth Lea, chief economist at Mitsubishi Capital in London.

She said unemployment was likely to keep rising well into next year. "The green shoots of economic recovery are still looking pretty frostbitten."

Government officials said the lower than expected rise was hard to explain and they were cautious about reading too much into the figures. But they hoped that the was a sign saying 'no gas,' he said.

Other figures showed that average earnings rose by a higher than expected 7.75 per cent in the year to August.

The opposition Labour Party said the data showed that Britain was paying an "appalling price."

Algeria asks to join GATT

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has applied for admission to GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), the minister with special responsibility for commerce, Ahmad Fodil Bey, has said.

The minister also told a seminar in Algiers that the government planned new codes on trade, fiscal matters and customs tariffs.

Primary materials being imported would be subject to low tariffs, he said, adding that the number of different tariffs would be cut from 19 — ranging from nil to 120 per cent — to nine, with the tax rates ranging from nil to 42 per cent, the Algerian news agency said.

French unemployment chiefs become jobless

PARIS (R) — The two latest casualties of France's rising tide of unemployment were the bearers of the bad news themselves.

Joining the ranks of the record 2.7 million jobless Friday were the chairman and managing director of the state employment agency, ANPE, which compiles unemployment statistics.

Employment Minister Martine Aubry sacked ANPE Managing Director Jean Marimbert Thursday night and Chairman Jean Bernard resigned in protest Friday.

Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy accused the ANPE this week of being little more than an out-of-date record-keeping machine producing "debatable statistics."

With unemployment proving a severe drag on the government's popularity, Mr. Aubry wants the ANPE to be more active in its role of putting the jobless in touch with employers and to weed out more benefit cheats.

Romania finds 'no gas' to refill for reform trip

BANGKOK (R) — Romania's economic reforms have been hit by the failure of rich countries to deliver promised aid, National Bank Governor Mugur Isarescu has said.

Reforms have not only been running according to plan, winning praise from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but have been accelerated, Mr. Isarescu said.

However, the reform programme had been built on the assumption of substantial foreign financial aid.

"It's crucial not only to have money but to have promised money at the due time," Mr. Isarescu said.

The IMF's policy-making Interim Committee had called for "adequate and timely financing" to back adjustment, he said.

"We started on this trip with a half-full tank, expecting we could fill up with fuel on the way now and again. We pushed on the accelerator, and when we reached the first fuel station there was a sign saying 'no gas,'" he said.

Mr. Isarescu said the Romanian government and parliament remained committed to economic reform, despite the recent riots led by communists.

The miners, whose rampage forced Mr. Isarescu to call off a major reform, internal convertibility for Romania's currency, the leu, and a single exchange rate, were protesting against huge price rises and the prospect of massive unemployment.

Because of the rainy summer and problems in land reform, agricultural production would not cover domestic needs this year and Romania would need \$200 million to \$300 million to buy wheat and potatoes, Mr. Isarescu said.

"I expect because of the hardships and the burden of the September events there will be some modification of the process of adjustment," he said.

That was due to the collapse of Romania's Soviet and eastern

Europe export markets and lack of foreign funding.

"The IMF programme is on track but the economy is off track," he said.

Uncertainty after September's miners' riots led the World Bank to suspend a planned loan, threatening to further disrupt Group of 24 funding as Japan's contribution was tied to that credit.

Talks on the World Bank loan are to resume in November.

Mr. Isarescu said the reforms had been based on two pillars — \$1 billion from the IMF, which was being paid out on schedule, and \$1 billion from the Group of 24, which was not.

Romania now expects to receive a maximum of only \$300 million of Group of 24 money this year.

It had a \$200 million bridging loan from the Bank for International Settlements in September in advance of the first European Community (EC) payment, expected now in November instead of April as promised.

The EC has been delaying payments because it wants other Group of 24 members, principally the United States, to contribute.

Washington has been holding off because it doubts the democratic credentials of the Romanian authorities.

Mr. Isarescu said he had raised the issue with U.S. officials, who listened sympathetically and promised to consider Romania's emergency food needs.

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Israel angered by U.S. doubts over credit rating

U.S. guarantees is only part of what is needed to absorb an expected million immigrants by 1995.

Israeli officials put the total cost at \$50 billion — \$20 to \$30 billion in loans from foreign banks.

The CRS said servicing rising debt would be more difficult unless jobs were found for immigrants. Unemployment, up from six

Yugoslav defence minister orders ceasefire

Relief convoy hits mine while evacuating Vukovar wounded

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Two nurses were badly wounded Saturday when an international relief convoy hit a landmine evacuating over 100 injured people from the besieged Croatian town of Vukovar.

It was the first convoy to evacuate wounded from the town since the Serb-led Yugoslav army began a siege of Vukovar in north-east Croatia almost two months ago.

"Two of our nurses were seriously injured," said Anne-Marie Huby, spokeswoman for the convoy organised by the international humanitarian group Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Ms. Huby would not give names or details of the wounded nurses until their families had been informed. The aid group said earlier most of those in the 12 vehicle mercy convoy were Belgian or Dutch.

"One truck carrying wounded ran over a mine and the nurses were wounded," she said. The convoy was now under federal army escort and heading to Pet-

rovci, eight kilometres south of Vukovar. Ms. Huby is in contact with the convoy by radio.

The relief convoy entered the besieged Croatian city of Vukovar Saturday and evacuated the most seriously wounded, as Yugoslavia's 10th ceasefire held tenuously.

Federal Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic ordered all army troops to cease fire on the territory of Croatia as of noon (1100 GMT) Saturday in accordance with truce agreement reached Friday under European community (EC) auspices. The brief order was published by the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug.

However, a spokeswoman for Médecins Sans Frontières said mortar shells rained down around the convoy for 30 minutes, beginning at noon, as it prepared to leave the city.

Gen. Kadijevic was signed three similar ceasefire orders following previous truce agreements. It was not clear just how much effect his latest would have on the fighters, particularly Serbian loyalists in

Croatia who have been fighting, with army backing, to prevent the republic from gaining independence.

The convoy of five doctors, eight nurses and other MSF workers, escorted by two EC monitor vehicles, arrived in the embattled Croatian stronghold on the border with rival Serbia at 10 a.m. (0900 GMT).

It left about 1 1/2 hours later, carrying about 109 of those who needed "absolute intensive medical care," Joanne Sotrich, an MSF coordinator from Greece told reporters gathered in a village just west of Vinkovci, where a field hospital had been set up.

She said the convoy was "in great danger" as it left Vukovar. It must pass through Vinkovci, to the southwest en route to the hospital, and Western journalists returning from the city said there was heavy shelling around 1:15 p.m. (1215 GMT).

Croatian military officials said later the convoy had been stopped about 12 kilometres outside Vukovar by federal forces who were searching the vehicles.



Boris Yeltsin

Yeltsin vetoes Russian law on local elections

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin Friday vetoed a law that established early local elections, saying the voting would paralyse the new administrators he has appointed to push home reforms across the huge republic.

A dispute over the elections was one of the issues that caused squabbling in Mr. Yeltsin's government for the past month, slowing the momentum of efforts to move towards a free-market economy.

Sergei Shakhrai, an ardent Yeltsin loyalist, resigned Friday as chairman of the Legislation Committee and member of the Russian Supreme Soviet President, which last week approved a law setting a Dec. 8 date to elect administrators of cities, districts, regions and territories within Russia.

Mr. Shakhrai quit because the law would have left Mr. Yeltsin "without firm executive power in regions of the republic," said Mr. Shakhrai's aide, Konstantin Yeliseyev, in an interview.

Mr. Yeltsin has appointed a network of hand-picked administrators over the past year to circumvent hardline Communist officials who were ignoring or thwarting his orders.

Although lawmakers gave him the power to appoint the officials, critics in the Russian legislature and elsewhere now call the network undemocratic. Mr. Yeltsin says it's still needed to implement his reforms.

Mr. Yeltsin had asked the legislator to repeal the law, saying the newly elected officials would be in conflict with his appointees.

"This will aggravate the crisis still further, and lead to a paralysis of power," Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday, according to the independent news agency Interfax.

Mr. Yeltsin proposed holding the elections next spring, with previously scheduled Russian parliamentary elections.

But the legislature rejected the appeal Friday. In response, Mr. Shakhrai quit and Mr. Yeltsin later spliced the law, according to Russian Television and the government-run Russia Information Agency.

Meanwhile, a senior Communist Party official has committed suicide by jumping from the balcony of his flat — the third to plunge to his death since the failed August coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dmitry Lisovolik, 54, a former official of the party's Central Committee, died after jumping from the balcony of his 12th-floor apartment, Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Friday.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Moscow power station fire put out

MOSCOW (R) — Fire broke out in a generator at a Moscow power station early Saturday morning, but a spokesman for the city fire brigade said it was put out in an hour and there were no casualties. The generator, one of six, was out of action and would have to be replaced, duty officer Alexander Groshikov said. But the power station, one Tretya Khoroshevskaya Street in the north-west of the city, should be back in action shortly. "The supply of electricity was not affected, because there is a network for supplying users," he said. The fire broke out in some lubricating oil which leaked from the generator through a mechanical failure. "I would say it was not very serious," Mr. Groshikov said. The Soviet News Agency TASS, quoted by Radio Russia, had said earlier that the fire might have "serious consequences."

Zaire premier locked out of office

KINSHASA (R) — Armed troops loyal to Zaire's strongman President Mobutu Sese Seko barred opposition Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi from entering his office Saturday, witnesses said. The latest power struggle between the two arch-foes came the day after a spokesman for Mr. Mobutu declared that Mr. Tshisekedi's government formed Monday night was illegal because the prime minister had struck out key parts of its investiture document. A defiant Mr. Tshisekedi pleaded with the civil guards to let him into the prime minister's office. When that failed he sat down in a nearby grassy area and said he would meet his cabinet there later in the day. "I will stay here as long as I want," said the 58-year-old lawyer and longtime opponent of Mr. Mobutu. "I will stay here until 4 p.m. (1500 GMT) to hold a meeting with my ministers. You should not obey orders from a thief," Mr. Tshisekedi told the 50 or so guardsmen who barred his way to the prime minister's office in a residential area of the capital.

Miyazawa, foes launch campaign

TOKYO (AP) — Keiji Miyazawa, who is expected to be chosen Japan's next prime minister, and two other candidates began a weeklong official campaign Saturday for the governing party's presidency. The president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has led Japan's government for 36 years, also serves as prime minister because the party holds a majority in the powerful lower house of parliament. The campaign and the party election on Oct. 27 are expected to be largely ceremonial since Mr. Miyazawa, a 72-year-old former deputy prime minister, has the support of the party's largest faction and two other factional groups. Toshiki Kaifu, the 60-year-old popular prime minister who was denied another two-year term by Liberal Democratic powerbrokers early this month, leaves office on Oct. 30.

North Sea oil rig reconnected to tug

ABERDEEN, Scotland (R) — An oil rig adrift in the North Sea since fierce storms Friday was brought under control Saturday. Coastguards said the Borgny Dolphin, operated by Texaco and with 19 men aboard to carry out essential duties, had been reconnected to its towing vessel the frig crusader. "The rig is now headed into wind and under command," they said. Earlier Saturday it had been drifting east of the Shetland Islands off the Scottish coast as the weather improved. Sixty-one non-essential workers were airlifted from the rig Friday when it was wrenched away from its towing vessel taking it from a Norwegian oil field to the Strathclyde Field. By Saturday the violent storms had abated to 50 mph (80 kph) winds and seas of up to nine metres.

Democrat drops from presidential race

WASHINGTON (R) — One Democrat who was eyeing a try for the presidency — Oklahoma Representative Dave McCurdy — dropped his bid Friday while the political focus shifted again to reluctant New York Governor Mario Cuomo, a man who won't say "no" to talk he might run. Mr. McCurdy, 41, chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, said in Oklahoma City he would not join other contenders for the Democratic presidential nod. He said he had to choose between being an effective congressman, committee chairman and father to his three children and being away campaigning. "I have made these choices and therefore I am announcing today that I will not seek the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination," he said.

Thomas sworn in to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (R) — Clarence Thomas joined the U.S. Supreme Court Friday in an elaborate swearing-in ceremony on the White House lawn, saying the bitter battle over his confirmation had made him a better person. Thomas, 43, held one hand up and put the other on a Bible as he took the oath from Supreme Court Justice Byron White with President George Bush and about 1,000 relatives, friends and officials looking on in warm sunshine.

"Clarence Thomas has endured America at its worst, and he's answered with America at its best. He brings that hard-won experience to the high court, and American will be the better for it," Mr. Bush told the crowd.

Peru Senate strips Garcia's immunity

LIMA, Peru (R) — Former Peruvian President Alan Garcia, accused of enriching himself in office and having links to the scandal-plagued Bank of Credit and Commerce International, was stripped of his parliamentary immunity early Saturday. In a historic vote which followed 22 hours of debate, the Senate voted 38-17 to lift the immunity Mr. Garcia enjoys as a senator for life. Two senators abstained. Mr. Garcia, a 42-year-old Social Democrat, became the first president in Peru's modern history to face possible criminal charges. The vote was based on findings by a Senate commission that Mr. Garcia enriched himself by about \$400,000 during 14 years as a public servant.



Tanks return to Moscow — this time to film

MOSCOW (R) — Tanks surrounded the building of the Russian Parliament Friday raising fears among some passers-by of a repetition of August's failed coup. But this time the army was there just to make a film. Twenty tanks and eight armoured personnel carriers were allocated by Moscow military authorities after Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoi sanctioned shooting of a film on the coup by the local Sokrat Film Studio. TASS news agency said. Tanks moved on the parliament building — centre of opposition to the hardline emergency committee — several times during the August coup. But they never attacked. The coup has stirred creative activity beyond the film industry.

Kids view hard-porn videos in N. Zealand school library

WELLINGTON (R) — Children at a New Zealand primary school discovered that supposedly educational video cassettes in the library were hard pornography. Outraged parents are demanding that headmaster Jeff Brown resign after a group of 16 children aged nine to 13 watched hard pornography, with scenes including orgies, anal sex and lesbianism. The tapes, discovered next to children's videos at Washdyke School, near Timaru in New Zealand's South Island, were viewed without a teacher present, the parents said. Brown was on sick leave and could not be contacted.

Mahathir says BBC 'a bit racist'

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, attending the Commonwealth summit in Harare, was quoted in local newspapers as saying the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was "a bit racist" on the issue of good government. Mr. Mahathir, who was interviewed by the BBC at the summit, said the BBC had named Malaysia among Commonwealth countries which lack good governance. "They felt that unless we clean up our job, we should not be in the government," Mr. Mahathir told Malaysian journalists covering the summit. "I felt that was a bit racism on the part of the BBC." Mr. Mahathir said the BBC had singled out Malaysia as one of several countries which had laws to detain people without trial. "I did not feel that this is a British law we adopted."

Woman finds heroin in auctioned suitcase

FRANKFURT (R) — A German housewife who bought a suitcase at an auction for unclaimed airline luggage ended up taking home about 400,000 marks (\$235,000) worth of heroin. Frankfurt police said Thursday the woman had tried to do her laundry with the contents of a washing powder carton she found in the case. The carton contained four plastic packets holding a total of two kilogrammes of a powder later identified as heroin. Police said they did not know how much the woman paid for the suitcase.

At \$1,000, no one expects this book to be bestseller

NEW YORK (R) — Even for an art book this two-volume set is spectacular — beautifully printed photographs of the painstaking restoration of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling. But the publishers say they do not expect it to be a bestseller and would be satisfied selling 2,500 copies. At \$1,000 a set that wish is understandable. "The Sistine Chapel," published this week by Alfred A. Knopf, is believed to be the most expensive general trade art book ever published. No second printing is planned and there will not be a paperback edition. The lavishly produced two-volume book is published in connection with Nippon Television, underwriters of the restoration project, who get part of the profits from the book's sale.

Mr. Knopf

would make a public report upon its return to France, but added that he doubted the West could afford such a sustained dialogue with Peking on human rights under present conditions.

"For fruitful dialogue to continue, a number of conditions must be met which have not yet been met," he said.

U.N. permanent 5 agree rules on arms exports

LONDON (R) — The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreed a set of arms export rules in a bid to stop some countries from using huge arsenals they could use to threaten their neighbours.

After a two-day meeting in London, the five announced a series of guidelines committing them to avoid selling weapons likely to worsen international conflicts or increase tensions in a given region.

They also said they had also agreed to inform each other about sales to the Middle East of major conventional weapons systems.

The meeting grouped senior officials from Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, the veto-holding powers in the Security Council which together account for 85 per cent of the world's arms trade. "This major breakthrough is the first time in history that the five great powers have agreed on

ANC lauds phasing out of sanctions

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) welcomed Friday's Commonwealth decision to phase out anti-apartheid sanctions, but South African business leaders urged an immediate end to all curbs.

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus said the unanimous agreement of the Commonwealth leaders was in keeping with the anti-apartheid movement's recommendations to the 50-nationalities

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There was no immediate reaction from President F.W. de Klerk whose programme of apartheid reform has raised hopes of a transition to majority rule and an end to Pretoria's political and economic isolation.

The police statement gave few details but said 65 members of Spear Of The Nation, the ANC's armed wing, had been arrested in connection with the alleged violations. Some said they had trained recruits in the use of firearms, grenades and impotent mines, it said.

The recruits were to serve in self-defence units in black townships.

PEKING (R) — A team of French law experts Saturday gave a grim assessment of human rights in China, saying that legal reforms launched before Peking's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy unrest were now deadlocked.

The group said police in China had overwhelming powers, judges were controlled by the hardline Communist leadership and it was virtually impossible to enter a plea of "not guilty."

"We would call upon the human rights commission in Geneva to monitor the way human rights are implemented in this country very closely," said Alain Girardet, a Paris court of appeals judge.

The team of five legal experts headed by Paul Bouchet, a member of France's State Council, ended a week's visit Saturday saying they had been frustrated at every turn by Chinese officials.

However, they had sensed a wide yearning for greater liberty in private contacts with Chinese lawyers.

"There seems to be a great longing in this country for freedom and liberty. A great desire for the respect of human rights,"

Mr. Bouchet, who also heads France's Consultative Commission on Human Rights, told a news conference.

The French group was one of the few specifically concerned with human rights that Peking has permitted since 1989. The visit was made under an agreement worked out by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas during a trip to China in April.

The lawyers toured Peking's number one prison, which is often put on show for foreigners, as well as a youth detention center in the central city of Chengdu.

They also met the justice minister and other legal officials, although like other human rights groups, they were denied access to leading political prisoners.

Mr. Bouchet said the group found Peking unbending in its determination to isolate political prisoners. He said tentative steps, launched before the 1989 crackdown, to free the judiciary from

political control were now stopped dead.

New draft laws to give greater freedom and guarantees to judges and lawyers had been shelved indefinitely, while a 1990 law aimed at expanding the rights of the accused was not being applied, he said.

"As a result of the 1989 events, the reform process has become deadlocked," Mr. Bouchet said.

During its heyday of economic and political reform in the 1980s, China struggled to set up a legal framework after the chaos of the radical Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and 70s.

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would make a public report upon its return to France, but added that he doubted the West could afford such a sustained dialogue with Peking on human rights under present conditions.

"For fruitful dialogue to continue, a number of conditions must be met which have not yet been met," he said.

"The legal consequences of

South Korea will remain under the U.S. nuclear umbrella even if United States withdraws nuclear weapons from the country, the Yonhap News Agency reported Saturday.

It quoted a senior government official as saying: "the two countries have always noted through a joint communiqué in annual U.S